(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (e) There have been reports in newspapers about BPO employees facing stressful situation. The working conditions in the Business Process Outsourcing Companies are largely regulated by the provisions of the Shops and Establishments Act, of the respective State Governments. The working hours of BPO employees are governed by the provisions of Shops and Establishments Act enacted and implemented by the State Governments. The State Governments which are the "Appropriate Governments" under various labour laws for BPOs, are legally vested with powers to deal with violations of labour laws. Since labour laws are already applicable to BPOs and are regulated accordingly, Ministry of Labour & Employment has no proposal to appoint a regulator for BPO Companies. If specific complaints are received about the employees being made to work for longer hours, leading to stress, the matter will be taken up with the appropriate authorities.

Definition of Indirect Foreign Shareholding

*96. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA SEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has suggested a significant relaxation of the definition of indirect foreign shareholding;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Foreign investment in an Indian Company investing in another Indian company is referred to as indirect foreign shareholding in the latter Indian company. Government has separately notified the policy for calculating foreign investment in Investment Companies in Infrastructure/ Service Sectors attracting sectoral caps; Telecom Sector; Uplinking of TV Channels and Insurance Sector. The FDI policy including notified guidelines is reviewed on a continuous basis for further simplification/harmonisation.

World Bank aid for upgradation of ITIs

*97. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has been providing aid for the upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs);

(b) if so, details of the scheme;

(c) whether the World Bank has given the aid under certain terms and conditions;

(d) if so, the details of such conditions;

(e) the ITIs identified for such upgradation and on what basis; and

(f) the stakes of the State Government in the upgradation of such ITIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government of India has taken up Vocational Training Improvement Project for upgradation of 400 Government